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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,583	11/16/2005	Werner Meyer	095309.56173US	1477
23911 7590 06/02/2009 CROWELL & MORING LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP P.O. BOX 14300 WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300				
EXAMINER				
LOUIE, WAE LENNY				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3661				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/02/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/531,583

Applicant(s)

MEYER ET AL.

Examiner

WAE LOUIE

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/ISAC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/18/05, 1/17/08, 9/5/08

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the open-loop and closed-loop control algorithms" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim should read "an open-loop and closed loop control algorithms"

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Petite et al (7,053,767)

Regarding applicant claim 1, Petite discloses an arrangement for controlling vehicle drive train assemblies having a control device arranged remotely from the drive train assembly and performs open and closed-loop control algorithms, and a unit which is attached to the drive train assembly is electrically connected directly to a plurality of sensors, and has an A/D converter and fed into a data bus via a data bus transceiver unit for communication wherein:

A plurality of control devices are interconnected to one another via a first data bus and are each provided with a uniform data bus transceiver unit to which an assembly data bus is also connected;

The unit comprises an assembly specific sensor/actuator interface with a plurality of parallel connections for the sensors and a connection for the assembly data bus; (col 12, lines 46-67, "Fig. 7 illustrates a remote automotive diagnostics monitoring system 700. Remote automotive diagnostics interface unit consists of sensor 712 integrated with the vehicle diagnostic data bus and transmitter 714 wherein contents of the vehicle diagnostics can be downloaded upon a control signal to sensor 712 from a remote location service by local gateway 210) and the sensor/actuator interface accommodates series traffic transmission with a plurality of drive train assembly variants in at least two embodiments which differ in the number of sensor connections provided.

Although Petite does not disclose a signal converter for converting the digital sensor signals of a plurality of sensors whereby the same control device can be used for different assembly variants with different sensors without hardware modifications of its sensor connection, it would have been obvious to use any number of signal processing in order for the signals to be understood by the system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to transmit a signal whether digital or analog to a receiver that would recognize it, and this would have been inherent in the Petite invention which utilizes multiple sensors and actuators (col 2, lines 59-67, "a system is provided with one or more sensors to be read and/or actuators to be controlled remotely").

Regarding applicant claims 8-12, Petite discloses additional actuators can be connected to the sensor/actuator interface; the control data which are input via the assembly data bus for the actuator or actuators are converted into digital control data for the individual actuator so that the actuators can be actuated via the assigned sensor actuator connection (col. 8, lines 45-50, "additional functional block of the transmitter 320 is a RF transmitter 328. This circuit is used to convert information from digital electronic form into a format, frequency, and voltage level suitable for transmission from antenna 323 via an RF transmission medium") (col 2, lines 59-67, "a system is provided with one or more sensors to be read and/or actuators to be controlled remotely").

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WAE LOUIE whose telephone number is (571)272-5195. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 0700-1530.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas G. Black can be reached on 571-272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Wae Louie/
Examiner, Art Unit 3661

/Thomas G. Black/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3661